

ated by an irresistible propensity to fall in with his Excellency's sentiments upon almost every subject. The

"Nullius addictus jurare in verba Magistri,"

is a praise to which such members can by no means offer a just claim. But this is human nature. The fault is not in the men, but in the institution. The Governor in suspending a Councillor, deprives him not only of his seat at the Privy Council, but also of his place as a Legislator, as a Judge of the Court of Errors, and as a Judge in Chancery. Besides the temporary degradation, the suspension inflicts also a loss of pecuniary emolument in all these places. The Governors of our Colonies are most generally military men, accustomed to be obeyed without a word; and they are but too apt to forget or to disregard the characteristics of a civil governor.\*

The want of independence in the Council, is the great defect of the Colonial Constitution; and writers upon Colonial affairs have suggested what they considered would remove the defect. Among others, the late Mr. Bryan Edwards, in his valuable history of the West Indies, proposes, if I remember right, (not having the book, I cannot refer to it,) to appoint the legislative Councillors for life.

This would perhaps be going too far upon the other extreme. I would, instead of that, my Lord, suggest the

\* As exceptions to this general description, I will mention the late Sir George Beckwith, Governor of the Bermudas from 1798 to 1802; and General John Hodgson, who was Governor from 1806 to 1811. Both these Governors made it an invariable rule of their administration to exalt the civil above the military power.